

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 63, wherein, when the image forming apparatus and the external ~~processing~~ apparatus are in an offline state, the image forming apparatus reads out a file for building up the ~~image forming function application~~ from a storage area included in the image forming apparatus, builds up the ~~image forming function application~~ in the image forming apparatus, and controls the at least one of the hardware resources when a request is made to the ~~image forming function application~~ built in the image ~~handling~~ forming apparatus.

31. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 30, wherein, while the image forming apparatus and the external ~~processing~~ apparatus are in an online state, a file for building up the ~~image forming function application~~ is transferred from the external ~~processing~~ apparatus to the storage area.

32. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 63, wherein, while the image forming apparatus and the external ~~processing~~ apparatus are in an offline state, at least a part of the ~~user interface screen~~ is transferred from the external ~~processing~~ apparatus to a storage area, and at least the part of the ~~user interface screen~~ is read out from the storage area.

33. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 30, wherein,
while the image forming apparatus and the external ~~processing~~ apparatus are in an online state, the at least one of the hardware resources is controlled when a request is made to the external ~~processing~~ apparatus, and,
while the image forming apparatus and the external ~~processing~~ apparatus are in the offline state, the at least one of the hardware resources is controlled when a request is made to the image ~~handling~~ forming apparatus.

34-62. (Canceled)

63. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

an image forming apparatus; and

an external apparatus connected to the image forming apparatus through a network,

[[an]]

the image forming apparatus; including configured to include

at least one of hardware resources of a scanner and a plotter; ~~[[,]] that provides an image forming function for forming an image by using the at least one of the hardware resources as a Web service; and~~

a request part configured to send a request of a screen for using an application, which is implemented in the external apparatus and executes an image forming process using the at least one hardware resource;

a display part configured to display the screen for using the application at the display part, the screen sent from the external apparatus in response to the request sent by the request part;

an instruction request sending part configured to send an instruction request for executing the image forming process to the application implemented in the external apparatus, based on an operation of a user to the screen displayed at the display part;

an instruction receiving part configured to receive an execution instruction which is sent from the application in response to the instruction request sent by the instruction request sending part; and

an execution part configured to execute the image forming process in response to the execution instruction received by the instruction receiving part, by using the at least one hardware resource,

[[an]] the external processing apparatus configured to include the application including

a screen sending part configured to send the screen to the image forming apparatus in response to the request sent from the request part; and

an execution instruction sending part configured to send the execution instruction for executing the image forming process using the at least one hardware resource to the image forming apparatus, in response to the instruction request sent from the instruction request sending part ~~control the image forming function of the image forming apparatus by using the Web service provided by the image forming apparatus, wherein the image forming apparatus and the external processing apparatus are connected to each other through a network, a Web server of the external processing apparatus sends screen data of a user interface of the image forming function to a Web browser of the image forming apparatus in response to a screen update instruction sent from the Web browser of the image forming apparatus; the Web browser of the image forming apparatus displays the user interface of the image forming function at an operation part of the image forming apparatus by using the screen data of the user interface of the image forming function received from the~~

~~Web server of the external processing apparatus; when a request with respect to the image forming function is received from the user interface of the image forming function displayed at the operation part of the image forming apparatus, the Web browser of the image forming apparatus sends a request to the Web server of the external processing apparatus; a Web service client of the external processing apparatus instructs an execution of the image forming function to a Web service server of the image forming apparatus based on the request from the Web browser of the image forming apparatus; and the Web service server executes the image forming function based on an instruction of the execution of the image forming function sent from the Web service client of the external processing apparatus.~~

64. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 63, wherein the ~~Web service client~~ execution instruction sending part of the external ~~processing~~ apparatus sends a request of ~~[[the]]~~ a screen update instruction to the ~~Web service server~~ instruction receiving part of the image forming apparatus; ~~the Web service server of the image forming apparatus sends a request of the screen update instruction to the Web browser of the image forming apparatus based on the request of the screen update instruction sent from the Web service client of the external processing apparatus; and~~

~~the Web browser~~ request part of the image forming apparatus sends the screen update instruction to the ~~Web server~~ screen sending part of the external ~~processing~~ apparatus based on the request of the screen update instruction sent from the ~~Web service server~~ execution instruction sending part of the ~~image forming external~~ apparatus.

65. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 63, wherein a screen flow control part of the external ~~processing~~ apparatus generates the screen ~~data of the user~~

~~interface of the image forming function based on the request screen update instruction, and sends the screen data to the Web server of the external processing apparatus.~~

66. (Currently Amended) A method implemented by an image forming apparatus[[,]] including at least one of hardware resources of a scanner and a plotter, ~~that provides an image forming function for forming an image by using the at least one of the hardware resources as a Web service,~~ the image forming apparatus and an external processing apparatus to be connected to each other through a network, ~~wherein the external processing apparatus controls the image forming function of the image forming apparatus by using the Web service provided by the image forming apparatus;~~ the method comprising:

sending, to the external apparatus, from the image forming apparatus, a request of a screen for using an application, which is implemented in the external apparatus and executes an image forming process using the at least one hardware resource;

receiving the screen at the image forming apparatus in response to the request;

displaying, at a display part of the image forming apparatus, the screen for using the application;

sending, from the image forming apparatus, an instruction request for executing the image forming process to the application implemented in the external apparatus, based on an operation of a user to the screen displayed at the display part;

receiving, at the image forming apparatus, an execution instruction which is sent from the application in response to the instruction request; and

executing, at the image forming apparatus, the image forming process in response to the execution instruction, by using the at least one hardware resource ~~sending, from a Web browser of the image forming apparatus, a screen update instruction; receiving, at the Web browser of the image forming apparatus, screen data of a user interface of the image forming~~

~~function in a response to the screen update instruction; displaying, with the Web browser of the image forming apparatus, the user interface of the image forming function at an operation part of the image forming apparatus by using the screen data of the user interface of the image forming function; sending, with the Web browser of the image forming apparatus, a request to the external processing apparatus, when a request with respect to the image forming function is received from the user interface of the image forming function displayed at the operation part of the image forming apparatus; receiving, at a Web service server of the image forming apparatus, an instruction of an execution of the image forming function based on the request sent with the Web browser of the image forming apparatus; and executing, with the Web service server, the image forming function based on the instruction of the execution of the image forming function received based on the request sent with the Web browser.~~

67. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a first image forming apparatus that provides a first image forming function for forming an image by using a scanner as a first Web service;

a second image forming apparatus that provides a second image forming function for forming an image by using a plotter as a second Web service; and

an external processing apparatus that controls the first image forming function of the first image forming apparatus and the second image forming function of the second image forming apparatus by using the first Web service provided from the first image forming apparatus and the second Web service provided from the second image forming apparatus, wherein the first image forming apparatus, the second image forming apparatus, and the external processing apparatus are connected through a network;

the first image forming apparatus including

a request part configured to send a request of a screen for using an application,
which is implemented in the external apparatus and executes an image forming process using
the second image forming apparatus;

a display part configured to display the screen for using the application at the
display part, the screen sent from the external apparatus in response to the request sent by the
request part; and

an instruction request sending part configured to send an instruction request
for executing the image forming process to the application implemented in the external
apparatus, based on an operation of a user to the screen displayed at the display part,

the second image forming apparatus including

an instruction receiving part configured to receive an execution instruction
which is sent from the application in response to the instruction request sent by the
instruction request sending part; and

an execution part configured to execute the image forming process in response
to the execution instruction received by the instruction receiving part, by using the plotter,

the external processing apparatus configured to include the application including

a screen sending part configured to send the screen to the first image forming
apparatus in response to the request sent from the request part; and

an execution instruction sending part configured to send the execution
instruction for executing the image forming process using the plotter to the second image
forming apparatus, in response to the instruction request sent from the instruction request
sending part ~~a Web server of the external processing apparatus sends screen data of user~~
~~interfaces of the first image forming function of the first image forming apparatus and the~~
~~second image forming function of the second image forming apparatus to a Web browser of~~

~~the first image forming apparatus, in response to a screen update instruction from the Web browser of the first image forming apparatus; the Web browser of the first image forming apparatus displays the user interfaces by using the screen data of the user interfaces of the first image forming function and the second forming function received from the Web server of the external processing apparatus at an operation part of the first image forming apparatus; when a request with respect to the first image forming function of the first image forming apparatus and the second image forming function of the second image forming apparatus is received from the user interfaces of the first image forming function and the second forming function displayed at the operation part of the first image forming apparatus, the Web browser of the first image forming apparatus sends a request to the Web server of the external processing apparatus; a Web service client of the external processing apparatus instructs an execution of the first image forming function of the first image forming apparatus to a Web service server of the first image forming apparatus based on the request from the Web browser of the first image forming apparatus; the Web service server of the first image forming apparatus executes the first image forming function of the first image forming apparatus based on an instruction of the execution of the first image forming function of the first image forming apparatus sent from the Web service client of the external processing apparatus; after the execution of the first image forming function of the first image forming apparatus, the Web service client of the external processing apparatus instructs an execution of the second image forming function of the second image forming apparatus to a Web service server of the second image forming apparatus based on the request from the Web browser of the first image forming apparatus; and the Web service server of the second image forming apparatus executes the second image forming function of the second image forming apparatus based on the instruction of the execution of the first image forming function of the~~

~~first image forming apparatus sent from the Web service client of the external processing apparatus.~~

68. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 67, wherein the ~~Web service client~~ execution instruction sending part of the external ~~processing~~ apparatus sends a request of a screen update instruction to the ~~Web service server~~ of the first image forming apparatus; ~~the Web service server of the first image forming apparatus sends a request of the screen update instruction to the Web browser of the first image forming apparatus based on the request of the screen update instruction sent from the Web service client of the external processing apparatus; and~~

the ~~Web browser~~ request part of the first image forming apparatus sends the screen update instruction to the ~~Web server~~ screen sending part of the external ~~processing~~ apparatus based on the request of the screen update instruction sent from the ~~Web service server~~ execution instruction sending part of the ~~first image forming external~~ apparatus.

69. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 67, wherein a screen flow control part of the external ~~processing~~ apparatus generates the screen ~~data of the user interfaces of the first image forming function and the second image forming function~~ based on the request ~~screen update instruction, and sends the screen data to the Web server of the external processing apparatus.~~

70. (Currently Amended) A method implemented by an external processing apparatus, ~~that controls a first image forming function of a first image forming apparatus and a second image forming function of a second image forming apparatus by using a first Web service provided from the first image forming apparatus and a second Web service provided~~

~~from the second image forming apparatus, the~~ a first image forming apparatus, ~~[[the]] a~~
second image forming apparatus, and the external processing apparatus to be connected
through a network, the first image forming apparatus ~~providing the first image forming~~
~~function for forming an image by using a scanner as the first Web service,~~ the second image
forming apparatus ~~providing the second image forming function for forming an image by~~
using a plotter ~~as the second Web service,~~ the method comprising:

receiving, from the first image forming apparatus, a request of a screen for using an
application, which is implemented in the external processing apparatus and executes an
image forming process using the plotter;

sending the screen to the first image forming apparatus in response to the request;

receiving, at the application implemented in the external processing apparatus, an
instruction request from the first image forming apparatus for executing the image forming
process, the instruction request received after the sending the screen; and

sending, to the second image forming apparatus, from the application, an execution
instruction for executing the image forming process using the plotter, in response to the
instruction request ~~sending, with a Web server of the external processing apparatus, screen~~
~~data of user interfaces of the first image forming function of the first image forming~~
~~apparatus and the second image forming function of the second image forming apparatus to~~
~~the first image forming apparatus, in response to a screen update instruction from the first~~
~~image forming apparatus; receiving, at the Web server of the external processing apparatus, a~~
~~request from the first image forming apparatus, in a response to the screen data of the user~~
~~interfaces of the first image forming function of the first image forming apparatus and the~~
~~second image forming function of the second image forming apparatus; instructing, with a~~
~~Web service client of the external processing apparatus, an execution of the first image~~
~~forming function of the first image forming apparatus to the first image forming apparatus~~

~~based on the request from the first image forming apparatus; and instructing, with the Web service client of the external processing apparatus, after a reception of a response to the instructing the execution of the first image forming function of the first image forming apparatus, an execution of the second image forming function of the second image forming apparatus to the second image forming apparatus based on the request received from the first image forming apparatus.~~